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## Chapter 1 Introduction

District Baramulla derives its name from Baramulla town (earlier pronounced as *Varahamula*). *Varahamula* derives its name from two words *Varrah* (Sanskrit: Boar) and *Mul* (Sanskrit: Molar). The city of Baramulla, founded by Raja Bhimsina, held the position of a gateway to the valley as it was located on the route to the Valley from Muzaffarabad, now in POK, and Rawalpindi, now in Pakistan. The District extends over both the mountainous land and plain areas. The District has distinction of having geographical diversity as it has in its jurisdiction, sub temperate/sub tropical areas apart from vast area falling in temperate zone. It has severe cold climate in winter and a pleasant weather in summer. Almost all parts of the district experience snowfall during winter. The District is bounded by District Kupwara in the North, Budgam and Poonch in the South, parts of Srinagar and Ladakh in the East and the Line of Control in the West. Subsequent to the division of the erstwhile Baramulla District, from which Bandipora district has been carved out (2007), the District now covers an area of 4,190 sq km and comprises eight tehsils with 543 villages out of which 532 villages are inhabited. As per Census 2011, the provisional population of the district is 10,15,503 with 82.81 *per cent* (8,40,948) residing in rural area. It is fourth populous district of the State. Decadal growth in the population of the District since Census 2001 was 20.34 *per cent*. The District has a literacy rate of 66.93 *per cent* compared to the overall literacy rate of 68.74 *per cent* in the State.

### Administrative Set up

The District has been divided into twelve community blocks and eight tehsils with Baramulla city as the District headquarters. The District Development Commissioner (DC) is the Chief Executive Officer of the District who oversees and controls the implementation of various socio-economic and developmental programmes. The District Development Commissioner is assisted by an Additional Deputy Development Commissioner and a Chief Planning Officer (CPO) for preparation of Plans.

The administrative set up of the District is shown below:

**CHART-1**

